

East Jemez Resources Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2003

Welcome and Introductions – John Mack

John Mack opened the East Jemez Resource Council (Council) meeting by introducing himself as the chair. Thanks were given to Todd Haagenstad and Susan Rupp for their efforts in organizing the Council's minutes, charter, and agenda. New members were welcomed and a round-table introduction was conducted before reviewing the meeting agenda. Diana Webb requested the agenda item on LANL Environmental Ethic/Policy and EMS be reviewed first to accommodate her anticipated early departure.

LANL Environmental Ethic/Policy and EMS – Diana Webb/Todd Haagenstad

Diana Webb presented a brief review of current events at LANL culminating in the reconsideration and re-bidding of the UC contract in September 2005. During the course of these events, Diana was asked to establish a central policy office. Todd reviewed the current status and development of LANL's "Environmental Ethic", which will likely become more of a "policy" due to recent passage of the revised DOE Order on Environmental Protection (DOE O 450.1). Todd presented a draft copy of the "Los Alamos National Laboratory Sustainability Ethic" to members of the Council for their review and consideration. Myron Gonzales commented that the tribes should be involved early in the development process. Others agreed in the need for early interagency input. Diana commented that the ethics statement was created in parallel with other efforts at LANL under the previous LANL Director. A discussion about the definition of "sustainability" and monitoring its effectiveness ensued. Diana explained that LANL normally takes a baseline inventory (e.g., as expressed in the "Environmental Surveillance Report") in order to look at trends over time. Barbara Hoditchek re-emphasized the need to listen to neighbors and have their involvement in spirit of the "stewardship" the ethic claims to address. Todd reminded the Council that this is a work in process and in spirit of communication it was brought to the table to get folks thinking, but that he anticipated official "roll-out" will be managed through more formal channels. Todd welcomed comments from Council members and stated there may be significant internal changes to the ethic within the next few months. Diana concluded her participation by stating this is an attempt by LANL to put together a more proactive, rather than reactive, policy. Todd provided his email address for those that would like to comment (hth@lanl.gov). It was agreed that putting a copy of the ethics statement in the meeting minutes was too premature.

EJRC Charter: Revisited – John Mack

John Mack revisited the EJRC Charter discussion from the February 6th meeting. He remarked that he would like to see signatures before his tenure ended as Council Chair. Todd stated that the previous charter had signatures of participants and members in November 2002 with participants defined as "anyone who wanted to be involved" versus members who had "land management responsibilities." Using the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish as an example, the Council discussed what defines "land management authority." The Council reached a consensus that membership status should be reserved for entities that have clear land management responsibilities and authorities. Myron Gonzales re-emphasized that participation in the EJRC has benefited San Ildefonso to which others agreed. John Mack reminded the Council that the EJRC was not established to garner support, but that its primary role was for

information exchange. Todd agreed to attempt to get signatures and provide an update at the next quarterly meeting in August.

EJRC: Charter and White Paper Topics – John Mack

Consideration shifted to potential topics for information sharing and dissemination. John Mack reviewed proposed topics from the last meeting including drought/bark beetle concerns and issues being addressed by the cultural subcommittee. Rory Gauthier proposed a USFS/LANL white paper on post-fire assessments and the effect of fire on cultural resources (e.g., historical homestead sites on the Pajarito Plateau), which, when asked, he stated might take awhile to produce because it might require some money. Todd stated he would like to query others at LANL following the recent organizational shift. Myron Gonzales asked if there would be an intent to get it on the EJRC website to which Todd replied affirmatively. Myron continued by saying he saw this as an opportunity to educate the public on resources and used the diversity and history of the pueblo lands as an example. John Mack reminded everyone that the white papers are to disseminate information and act as a clearinghouse where information is presented matter-of-factly to which Todd responded that they are not meant to be politicized.

Other topics continued to be discussed. John Parker proposed a “fire management” topic in which the manner landowners and agencies work together to mitigate fire effects could be discussed and link to other sites (e.g., BAER) could be provided. John Mack said he could also see a similar paper relating to defensible space issues. Todd suggested a more philosophical paper on interagency resource management to include examples like the EJRC and Interagency Wildfire Management Team (IWMT). Barbara Hoditchek said she would discuss the possibilities for a white paper between the county and watershed issues with the Pajarito Plateau Working Group. John Stetson stated he liked the bark beetle topic while John Parker encouraged more discussion on the long-term environmental stewardship of solid waste management units.

Todd restated he will play an active role in establishing and maintaining the website and that he is not shy about returning to the Council to solicit a working group to assist, if necessary. John Mack agreed that the details will continue to evolve, but that if we want to move forward with the white papers we need to identify “champions” to take the lead. At this point, Myron Gonzales and Rory Gauthier volunteered to take the lead on the “Fire effects on cultural resources” suggestion and Todd Haagenstad and Sam Loftin agreed to take the lead on the “Drought/Bark beetle” suggestion. Todd further agreed he would look for a champion to lead the defensible space proposal. John Parker offered to help since USFS was not present at the meeting. Todd said that would be his next call when we adjourned. The discussion concluded with the goal of presenting these white papers at the November meeting and using them as a possible template to structure future white papers.

EJRC Web Site Update – Todd Haagenstad

Todd updated the Council that he had talked to Brian Thompson in RRES Division and that a link had been set up for EJRC with the minutes displayed. Questions about accessibility are still an issue and need to be defined and addressed. Todd also solicited input for gathering information for inclusion on the web site. Both John Stetson and John Parker said they could provide links and/or information and John Mack encouraged the inclusion of the EJRC Charter, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes, as well as the white papers previously discussed with

links to relevant agencies. Members and participants agreed that web access and navigation should be easy for the user. Conversation shifted to the possible inclusion of a “photo archive” as well as links to Working Groups within EJRC. Todd asked about possible links to the pueblos. Myron said he would get with the governor of San Ildefonso and Jason Garcia said it would be the same for Santa Clara. Jason mentioned a possible link to the Cultural Center and offered to serve as the contact for Santa Clara.

Seeking Common Ground (SCG) Update – John Mack

John announced that SCG had reached a major milestone in April after 3-4 years of collaborations with the publication of a brochure, which summarizes the goals, objectives, and actions of SCG with and emphasis on “on-the-ground” management. John had copies available for everyone and mentioned that efforts were being made to distribute the publication across the Jemez and to interested individuals. John also mentioned that SCG is in the process of developing a web page for the brochure that might serve as a possible link for the EJRC website. John then summarized current efforts of SCG to finalize a “Parity Proposal” – led by John Peterson of the US Forest Service – which aims to balance elk/cattle management in the Jemez Mountains. The potential exists for making the “Parity Proposal” another white paper and John said he would follow-up. John concluded the update by stating that next meeting of SCG is scheduled for June 4, 2003, during which future projects and goals will be discussed.

Cultural Resources Working Group Update – Rory Gauthier

Rory reported that the working group had met April 16th. The following updates were provided at the meeting:

- *LANL* – Is continuing excavations at the airport (3 sites) as part of the land transfer to L.A. county. Efforts will also focus on Rendilla Canyon if time and funds permit.
- *USFS* – Has lots of WUE-related projects. The Virgin Mesa report is scheduled to come out and another study is assessing the impacts of cattle grazing on cultural resource sites.
- *Santa Clara* – on-going projects include identifying former and current agricultural fields within the Santa Cruz basin and elsewhere as well as addressing problems with the cell phone tower.
- *Bandelier National Monument (BNM)* – 1000 acres is to be inventoried and implemented during Year 2 of the assessment project. There will be detailed monitoring and sampling of 30 sites this summer. An EA, with no FONSI sent for approval, was completed to repave the entrance road to Bandelier by fall 2004.

Rory discussed a centralized curation facility and stated the leads should be Bandelier, LANL, and San Ildefonso. Further talk about building plans and location need to occur. John mack requested that Rory have documentation and a presentation on the centralized collection facility available for the November meeting. In conclusion, Rory stated that the Pecos Conference will be held in August 2005. Six hundred (600) people are expected over 3 days. The main conference will be on BNM property, camping will be on USFS property, and parking will be on LANL property.

Pajarito Plateau Watershed Partnership (PPWP) Update – Barbara Hoditchek

Barbara began by introducing herself as the new Chair of the Pajarito Plateau Watershed Partnership Working Group. She described her involvement with the county storm water management and developing the second 319 grant. She then updated the group on Craig Martin's plan to distribute seed balls on May 10th. An April 21st forum discussed regulations and management of urban runoff and flow management ordinances and erosion control by LANL. She stated the county and PPWP Working Group will meet on May 7th to develop a proposal for the 319 Grant Ordinance. A public forum led by Greg Kuyumjian is scheduled for May 8th at 7:00 pm at Fuller Lodge. The next meeting of the PPWP Working Group is scheduled for May 14th at 6:00 pm. At this meeting they will attempt to draw the general public and get their involvement on the ordinance. Barbara concluded by stating that she would like to see an update and financial participation from the NPS and cited that Mr. Whittington was the last signatory on the 319 grant. When asked how matching funds would work, Barbara stated that the time members assist the group is matching and that she would need to talk to the program manager from the New Mexico Environment Department.

Round Table Updates and Discussions – All

Bandelier National Monument (John Mack) – John discussed the April 2nd Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS on their Ecological Restoration Plan. The first stage will include public comment through two public meetings – the first of which they anticipate will be held in May. Notices about the meeting places and time will be provided in the next several months. A separate EIS on the Fire Management Plan is also in the works.

DOE Area Office (John Stetson) – stated they are currently working on several EAs:

- An EA for implementing a management program for trails on DOE lands. The EA is 50-75% complete. He invited cooperating agencies to collaborate.
- An EA for a proposed new sanitary landfill for Los Alamos County and LANL. DOE is still evaluating potential alternative sites for the proposed landfill.
- A decision was recently made to terminate an EA for a proposed County Distribution Center. No FONSI is logistically possible. If the County wishes to pursue the proposal, an EIS will likely be required.

San Ildefonso (Myron Gonzales) – Myron stated there has been 250 acres of bosque restoration, which mainly focused on the removal of Russian olives and salt cedars originally planted to stop erosion. BNM fire crews assisted the pueblo with a control burn and subsequent mop up. They are also expanding the restoration to the east side of White Rock in response to the fire threat and beetle infestation. In response to the land transferred, they are fencing the TA-74 area and working on signage. Phase 3 of the Pueblo's Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project will begin in two weeks and will continue through September. It will include a holistic approach to land management through tree thinning, erosion control, and fencing in public areas. Myron concluded by stating that San Ildefonso was also working with RRES_ECO to develop a poster for the May 17th presentation.

Santa Clara (Jason Garcia) – Jason reported on the pueblos efforts to quantify water routes and consideration of T & E species. They are also working with the State Historic Preservation Office on cultural resource issues relating to the cell tower near the golf course. A public

meeting was scheduled in the coming two weeks. A Source Water Protection plan was also being developed. In closing, Jason said Santa Clara was working with San Ildefonso and LANL on cultural resources assessments methods.

LANL RRES-ECO (Todd Haagenstad) – Todd announced the selection of Dr. Jackie Little from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, as the new group leader for RRES-ECO. Dr. Little’s background is in probabilistic risk analysis, regulatory compliance and program development. She is expected to begin her new position at the end of June and will likely be at the next EJRC meeting. Todd also reiterated that RRES Division is still relatively new and there are many things in process (e.g., Environmental Ethic statement). He encouraged others to participate in the development of the ethics statement.

New Mexico Environment Department – Oversight Bureau (John Parker) – John stated that there is some money available to investigate perchlorates with LANL and the county. They are hoping to develop new methodologies to detect trace levels of contamination, which may allow groups to become more proactive in their response.

Future Agenda Items and Closing Remarks – All

The following were suggested as possible future agenda items:

- White paper updates
- Working Group updates
- Status on Charter signatures
- Other items as defined